

HEALTH

PROSTATE CANCER

After lung cancer, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among men in the United States. It is also the most commonly diagnosed form of cancer, other than skin cancer in men. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2000, nearly 180,400 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and an estimated 31,900 will die. In the United States and the world, African Americans have the highest incidence rate for prostate cancer. The incidence rate among black males (224.3 per 100,000) is more than twice that of white males (150.3 per 100,000). American Indians have the lowest incidence rate and Asian Pacific Islanders have the lowest mortality rate.

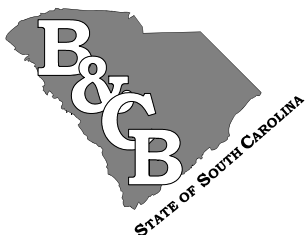
The American Cancer Society estimates that 2,900 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed and 500 men will die of prostate cancer in South Carolina in the year 2000.

Symptoms

Early prostate cancer often does not cause symptoms. When symptoms of prostate cancer do occur they may include some of the following problems:

- A need to urinate frequently, especially at night
- Difficulty starting urination or holding back urine
- Inability to urinate
- Weak or interrupted flow of urine
- Painful or burning urination
- Painful ejaculation
- Blood in urine or semen
- Frequent pain or stiffness in the lower back, hips or upper thighs

Keep in mind that these symptoms may be caused by cancer or by other less serious health problems or infections. Only a doctor can determine the cause of these symptoms and men who are experiencing these symptoms should contact their family physician or urologist for an appointment. For more information contact the National Cancer Institute at 1-800-422-6237.



STATE HEALTH PLAN PREVENTION PARTNERS
South Carolina State Budget and Control Board
Office of Insurance Services-Insurance Benefits Management
August 2000

